

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1651
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AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, RO, XI, XJ
SUBJ: CEAUSESCU AFRICAN TRIP
REF: BUCHAREST 516 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. EARLY NEXT WEEK ROMANIAN PRESIDENT AND MRS. CEAUSESCU WILL BEGIN TWO WEEK VISIT TO AFRICA WITH STOPS IN MAURITANIA, SENEGAL, GHANA, IVORY COAST AND NIGERIA. DURING VISIT CEAUSESCU IS LIKELY TO STRESS GOR'S THIRD WORLD TIES AND CREDENTIALS AND SEEK NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPAND GOR TRACE WITH AFRICAN STATES. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT AND MRS. CEAUSESCU ARE SCHEDULED TO DEPART EARLY NEXT WEEK (TUESDAY, ACCORDING TO FONMIN) ON AN AFRICAN VISIT OF APPROXIMATELY TWO WEEKS. IT WILL BE CEAUSESCU'S FIRST TRIP TO FOUR (MAURITANIA, GHANA, IVORY COAST AND NIGERIA) OF THE COUNTRIES TO BE VISITED (HE AND SENEGAL'S SENGHOR HAVE ALREADY EXCHANGED TWO VISITS APIECE,
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LATEST BEING SENGHOR'S STOP HERE IN APRIL 1976). HOWEVER, CEAUSESCU DID MEET WITH IVORY COAST PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BIOGNY IN RWAT IN SEPTEMBER 1973 AND MAURITANIAN LEADER OULD DADDAH VISITED BUCHAREST IN JUNE 1974.

3. IT WILL ALSO BE CEAUSESCU'S FIRST RETURN TO

AFRICA SINCE ROMANIA BECAME A MEMBER OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND AN "OFFICIAL GUEST" IN NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT. HE CAN BE COUNTED ON TO STRESS SIMILARITY OF GOR AND THIRD WORLD POLICY AIMS AND INTERESTS ON VARIETY OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES, ESPECIALLY SINCE SOME AFRICAN STATES APPEAR SKEPTICAL OF GOR'S THIRD WORLD CREDENTIALS.

4. CEAUSESCU WILL ALSO HOPE TO EXPAND ROMANIAN TRADE TIES WITH AFRICAN STATES, IN LINE WITH GOR'S AIM TO INCREASE PERCENTAGE OF TRADE WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FROM ITS PRESENT NINETEEN PLUS PERCENT TO THIRTY PERCENT BY 1980. AS USUAL, ROMANIANS WILL BE SEEKING AN EXCHANGE OF AFRICAN RAW MATERIALS FOR ROMANIAN INDUSTRIAL GOODS. IN THIS REGARD WE EXPECT CEAUSESCU TO INVESTIGATE PURCHASE OF NIGERIAN PETROLEUM. ACCORDING TO MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE PATAN ROMANIANS HAVE ALREADY RAISED THIS ISSUE WITH NIGERIANS, BUT APPARENTLY NO DEAL HAS YET BEEN MADE.

5. CEAUSESCU WILL NOT BE VISITING ANY EAST AFRICAN STATES ON THIS TRIP, ALTHOUGH SEVERAL HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN MENTIONED AS POSSIBLE STOPS. NEVERTHELESS, GOR HAS ALSO BEEN RATHER ACTIVE RECENTLY IN THIS PART OF THE AFRICAN CONTINENT WITH SEVERAL HIGH-RANKING PARTY LEADERS ATTENDING VARIOUS ANNIVERSARY AND OTHER CELEBRATIONS IN ANGOLA (DEPPRIMIN IONITA IN NOVEMBER AND POLEXCO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MEMBER LUPU IN DECEMBER), SUDAN (POLEXCO MEMBER BANC), MOZAMBIQUE (PARTY SECRETARY ANDREI) AND TANZANIA (POLEXCO MEMBER PANA). IN THESE COUNTRIES GOR REPRESENTATIVES STRESSED ROMANIA'S ANTICOLONIAL CREDENTIALS, A THEME WHICH CEAUSESCU WILL ALSO MAKE USE OF ON THE WEST COAST. ROBERT MAUGABE, ZANU SECRETARY GENERAL), ALSO STOPPED IN BUCHAREST AND SAW CEAUSESCU ON HIS RETURN FROM FIRST ROUND OF GENEVA TALKS ON RHODESIA IN DECEMBER 1976.

6. COMMENT: WE EXPECT LITTLE OF IMPORTANCE TO COME OUT OF THIS AFRICAN TRIP, BUT IT DOES APPEAR TO BE THE START OF AN ACTIVE TRAVEL YEAR FOR CEAUSESCU WITH FURTHER VISITS TO SEVERAL EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, CANADA AND ASIA ALREADY ARRANGED OR IN THE PLANNING STAGE.
BARNES

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 18-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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